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WALTER G. SMITH, Editor.

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CHARLES S. CRANE, Manager.

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GENESIS OF RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

McClure's Magazine for September publishes a translation by George Kennan, of extracts from Kurapatkin's fourth volume, which contains a general summing up and furnishes an interesting revelation of the immediate causes of the Russo-Japanese war. It appears that State Councillor Alexander Mikhailovich Bezobrazoff, a Russian promoter and speculator, who to a fine personal presence and bearing added the promoter's persuasive tongue, succeeded in interesting in a project for exploiting the great forest wealth of the upper Yalu river not only the Grand Dukes and other influential members of the Russian court circle, but even the Czar himself. This partnership with the Russian ruler, who invested 2,000,000 rubles with him, gave Bezobrazoff sufficient influence to enable him to secure, in the interests of the lumber company, the continuance of a line of military policy condemned by Kurapatkin in his official reports as certain to provoke a rupture with Japan. The General was, as he here tells us, opposed to the building of the main line of the transiberian railway through Manchuria, to the occupation of Port Arthur, and to the timber enterprise on the Yalu. He says: "When our position in the Far East became difficult, and there seemed to be danger of a rupture with Japan, I was in favor of decisive measures, and proposed that we avert war by admitting the untimeliness of our attempt to get an outlet on the Pacific; by restoring Port Arthur and Kwangtung to China; and by selling the southern branch of the Chinese Eastern Railway"; the known influence of Bezobrazoff with the Czar made "everybody" in the Far East "afraid of him, but enabled him to enlist in the service of the timber company even officers of the Russian General Staff; caused Alexieff to respond to his call for troops to garrison Feng-wang-cheng and Shakhedze; and finally changed Russia's policy in the Far East and stopped the withdrawal of troops from Southern Manchuria." General Kurapatkin refers, again and again, to the Czar's "clearly expressed desire that war should be avoided," and he regrets that His Imperial Majesty's "coworkers" "were unable to execute his will," but it appears that, as late as November 27, 1903—only seventy days before the rupture with Japan—the Czar was still disregarding the sane and judicious advice of Kurapatkin, was still expressing "the fullest confidence" in Bezobrazoff, and was still ordering troops to the valley of the Yalu. The difficulty of maintaining the peace was further aggravated by the undiplomatic methods of Admiral Alexieff, who unnecessarily offended the pride of the Japanese by his manner of conducting negotiations with them. The aggressive and domineering Russian overlooked the fact of Japan's stubborn determination to enforce demands that were to her of such vital importance; the military unreadiness of Russia, and Japan's full knowledge of it and reliance upon it. Thus was Russia hurried into a war which neither her ruler nor her people desired. "Kurapatkin's narrative," says the Army and Navy Journal, to which we are indebted for the summary of McClure's opening chapters, "offers an instructive illustration of the fact that wars are due to progressive misunderstandings, the results of which can not be foreseen by the parties to the dispute or prevented by any advance agreement as to arbitration." The first three of his four bulky volumes, containing in all about 600,000 words, are devoted mainly to a detailed review from the standpoint of modern military science, of the three great battles of the Russo-Japanese war—Liao-yang, the Sha-ho and Mukden.

CORPORATE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.

The law prohibiting corporate bodies from giving funds for campaign purposes, is wholly and greatly to the credit of the Republican party, which is bound to suffer most by its application.

A corporation rests on an issue of stock, which, in many cases, is held by people of all political views and none. There may be Republicans, Democrats, Prohibitionists, and Hearstites on the list, as well as women and children. Now when the corporate heads get together and issue checks to the management of one party, they are violating the moral and legal rights of the non-consented stockholders, many of whom may be hostile to that party and some of them without politics. These people and all others at interest are entitled to say whether any part of their dividends and surplus shall be devoted to objects outside the sphere of the corporate business. But this right was long denied them.

What brought the anti-contribution law into being was the insurance exposure. First and last, millions of dollars had been taken from the earnings of life insurance companies which should have been, in large part, put to the credit of investors and policy-holders, but were used instead to elect Presidents and Congresses. The evil took the aspects of a gigantic felony, and because of it life insurance companies were reorganized, many great names were erased from the lists of presidents and directors, and political manipulators of the stamp of Depew and Hill were branded or smirched.

The way is still open, however, for the officers or agents of corporations to give as much money as they please to political bodies. But it must come out of their own pockets. They cannot dip into the common treasury without bringing themselves within reach of a Federal law which knows no respect of persons—a law that shows how closely a Republican President and Congress has guarded the public welfare.

PERSONALITIES IN POLITICS.

Whether personalities should be used in a campaign or not depends on the object sought. If a need exists to defeat a bad man, the personalities that drove William M. Tweed out of power and which have been used with signal effect against Schmitz and Ruef can hardly be set aside without injury to the cause of reform. We can well imagine that Abe Ruef would give a third of his ill-gotten gains to have the prosecution discuss issues instead of men. So, perhaps, would Mr. Foraker. If the question was of tariff revision in Ohio instead of whether Joseph B. Foraker had been bribed by the Standard Oil Company, he would not want to cancel his dates. He could make quite a plausible argument against doing anything at this stage of convalescence in the country's business to alarm those vast commercial institutions upon whose stability much of the recuperative power of the nation depends. But it happens that the people of Ohio and the nation want to know about Foraker. After hearing the truth about him, they will settle the question of tariff revision for themselves.

Coming to the local situation, is the party seriously asked, in the case of a candidate for the Legislature, a professional gambler, to shut its eyes to him and his record and discuss "the issues" of the platform? What greater issue is there than that of fitness for office? The supreme problem in Oahu and in all Hawaii, before which all others are trivial, is that of good government; and this is inextricably bound up in the question of men. The matter becomes directly personal. Is HE honest? Is HE competent? Is HE faithful to the laws? Such questions are asked a hundred times by the conscientious voter where the question of how the party stands on the local fishery issue, or what should be done about nomination fees or Japanese shacks, is asked once. The point is that, if the man, the candidate, answers the three personal requirements named, he will do the right thing in office.

Burton Holmes is no exception to the rule among visiting litterateurs of the popular type. They all come looking for local color and for a touch of the sensational; and, as a rule, they seek their spoil in leprosy. One is led to think from their writings that leprosy is everywhere underfoot like the dreaded dread-lance of Martinique, when, in point of fact, there are aged people, resident here all their lives, who never saw a leper. With its thrills over the "rotting plague" and over the molten ebullitions of our tame volcano, the average story about Hawaii in the magazines is a positive detriment to the country. Considering the pallid dread of leprosy on the mainland and the scare over volcanoes, which began with the Krakatoa catastrophe and reached its climax in the Mt. Pelee eruption, it is a wonder Hawaii gets any tourists at all.

If a reliable airless service can be had between here and the Coast, it ought to bring down cable rates.

AS TO STEAMSHIPS.

The Coast papers are positive that the Spreckels have sold their three idle boats to Harriman for use in the South American trade, leaving the Alameda and Mariposa the only serviceable representatives of the Oceanic Company in these waters.

If the statement is true—if the deal has been made—it is a thing for Honolulu to deeply regret; for it will be difficult to work in union with the Australasian governments to promote a joint tourist business, relying only on such facilities as the All-Red line has to offer. If American tourists are counted on as assets of the Hawaii-Australasian project, the three American liners seem indispensable. Canadian boats would not do. There can be no great rush of Americans to catch a Vancouver boat for Australia.

Then, again, the loss of the Spreckels trio means that our present limitations under the shipping law continue until some substitute line starts in for local business.

Items of hope, however, are not wholly lacking. If Congress should finally pass the subsidy bill, Harriman himself might neglect the Australian opening. As for the local ferry business, something may come of the Inter-Island-Matson combine; and with the development of Pearl Harbor a coincidental growth of steamship enterprise might reasonably be expected.

The Star would argue that graft, humbug and chicanery, being rampant in state politics, might as well seek a remedy in government by commission as graft, humbug and chicanery here. But the cases are not parallel. In California, New York, Pennsylvania and other States there is a qualified American population to fall back upon, one which, when aroused, can always reform the local government. But if either of those States, like the Territory of Hawaii, had an irresponsible non-English-speaking majority of voters, one likely to be reinforced by a voting element even more alien and dangerous, would not the property-owners appeal with one voice for some radical change in the system of government? In the South the people arose against negro rule and abolished it by force with the tacit assent of the rest of the Union. Elections are regularly held there by a qualified minority and Congress, realizing the emergency, does not even limit a representation in that body partly based upon citizens that are illegally disfranchised. It is not the habit of the American people to tolerate bad government. Where they have the votes they wipe it out. Where the votes are wanting they find some other way. It is naval or military rule in one place; it is government by commission in another, according to circumstances.

During the last three years, inclusive, Hawaii has imported 60,000 barrels of Portland cement, for which it paid \$120,000, and 110,000 barrels of lime, for which it paid \$100,000, freight charges added. The outlook now is for a vastly greater importation unless our people conclude to use the home product. According to men who have looked into the matter, the local lime and cement is equal to any in the market, but its commercial production awaits capital. We know of no better service the Chamber of Commerce could render the community now than to test Mr. Winter's product, and, if the cement comes up to his prospectus, to get in and finance it. Isn't it good policy to keep as much money in the channels of home trade as possible?

The Melbourne account of the street parade of the bluejackets is amusing as well as graphic. The gentlemen of the Melbourne press had preconceived ideas of the way Americans talk English, and they bravely lived up to them. Imagine a United States naval officer shouting "Drass!" to his men and following the order with an explosive Caledonian command to "Mairch forred." Nor did the ancient fable that Americans are forever chewing lose its savory. The vigilant Australian reporters could even shut their eyes and see the croisy American marines chewing peanuts or tobacco the moment they were allowed to rest on the march.

Representatives of this paper who understand Hawaiian heard Kuhio's speech at the Republican convention and are sure that he did not use the phrase "Nana ka ili," nor any other phrase which suggested the color line in politics. Chairman Atkinson, who knows Hawaiian, says the same thing. The story came from defeated aspirants for a place on the ticket, and has been spread by the common enemy in the hope of diverting the votes and money of white citizens to McCandless. No more attention should be paid to it.

However, there can be no disputing the Advertiser's remark that "the kind of politics we have" disgusts a great many good citizens. It has profoundly disgusted them. The question seems to be whether we should try to mend politics, or give up politics altogether? To put the matter another way, is self-government worth fighting for?—Star
Self-government is worth fighting for when it means good government. Otherwise, not.

The Eastern campaign has reached a degree of bitterness that is rarely achieved before the latter part of October. The Republicans are a bit seared and are moving up their heavy guns before the skirmishers have had their baptism of fire, and the Democrats, desperate in the thought that this is Bryan's last chance, are making furious charges. At this strenuous rate both sides will be exhausted before November comes.

A great many good citizens are getting into line for government by commission. The kind of politics we have alarms and disgusts them; and if there is any chance to drive out politics altogether, have taxes reduced and fifty per cent. of them paid by the Federal treasury, and to get the aid of a strong and permanent body of administrators in asking things of Congress for Hawaii, they are ready to seize it. The present system of graft, humbug and chicanery, which goes by the name of popular government, is growing more and more hostile to the best interests of the Islands.

Mr. Newell will find that there are plenty of public lands in Hawaii suitable for American settlers which have a larger annual rainfall than thickly populated counties in the East and Middle West. The question of getting settlers does not depend on irrigation, much as an assured supply of water would help in certain places. What is needed most is about fifteen per cent. of the enterprise in getting American citizens on the homestead land that is used in getting coolies and South European ragamuffins on the sugar land.

There are a good many people in this town, newcomers within the past two or three years, who are entitled to register, but who neglect the privilege. The Advertiser knows of five in one Federal office. It is possible that they are waiting to have the party whips look them up, as is done in the east, or perhaps, their interest has not been aroused in local politics. In either case the thing ought to interest the political organizers.

Achi's nine men in buckram have offered to run Mr. Hustace for mayor. Mr. Hustace, it appears, had sense enough to refuse. No one knows better than he that Achi could not deliver as many votes at the polls as Hustace got in the convention. The Achi labor party is the most amazing humbug the Islands have seen politically since the Wallach-Atcherley party was organized.

Mr. Bryan has finally taken a shot at Roosevelt, and if he wakes up some morning to hear the long roll and see his pickets driven in, he will know that the colonel of the Rough Riders is again on horseback, looking for blood. It won't take much from Bryan to bring the colonel into the thick of the fight.

The discharge of a 14-inch gun may be heard fifty miles. When there is target practice at the mouth of Honolulu harbor, it will be unnecessary to go down to the docks so as not to miss the noise.

There will, of course, be no alliance between the United States and China, but there are statesmen at Washington who perceive the value to peace of an entente with both China and Russia.

In the apple trade there is small choice between a decayed pipkin and a rotten northern spy.

There is every reason to believe that rumored consolidation of the Inter-Island and Matson line is as near a fact as any business deal can be that awaits the signing of the final papers.

If those fading flags are not removed from the streets pretty soon, strangers will think that Honolulu is hanging out its dirty linen.

Isn't it about time that the arrival at Samoa of the Pacific fleet was reported—or its arrival somewhere?

TEACHING THE BEST MAN POLICY

While the politicians in convention and on the street corners are busily pounding the "straight-ticket" doctrine into more or less willing ears, in some of the public schools the future voters are being trained along the line of "the best-man" propaganda. Within the last few days there have been four city governments elected by duly qualified electors in this city, and in no case was there "beer, booze and buncombe," appeals to the flag or a color line. They were warmly contested elections, nevertheless, that took place at the Royal, Kaahumanu, Kalaupapa and Normal schools, when mayors, sheriffs, supervisors and members of police forces were duly selected for the ensuing term.

In a very practical way the pupils of the various schools which have adopted school city government for themselves have demonstrated the value of the system. The fear that the children would be unable to grasp the idea and that the elections and carrying out the duties of the offices would be just a plaything for the pupils has gone, and the school voters and the school officials have assumed the responsibilities given them soberly and in the way hoped for. As a matter of fact the matter of discipline in the schools has been taken almost entirely off the shoulders of the teachers, the school sheriff and his police force keeping their eagle eyes out for offenders and putting them summarily under arrest at any breach of the school laws. It is the sheriff who summons the pupils into line at the ringing of the bell for the assembly of the classes, and the police officers gather in the strays and keep order in the ranks. At recess the officers watch to see that there is no swearing among the boys, no cheating in games among the girls, no roughness on the part of anyone and no bullying.

Offenders are brought before the school judge, and the cases are regularly cited. If the prisoner be found guilty, the punishment is in spending fifteen, twenty or thirty minutes in cleaning up the school grounds, weeding the flower beds or some such task, under the vigilant eye of a guardian of the peace. In the trials there is little chance for a guilty one to escape on any legal subterfuge or technical flaws. The laws are made with and administered in a spirit of common sense and the governments have as yet progressed so far in the civic plane as to frame their laws to allow the guilty to escape.

It is not primarily for the sake of this disciplining that the school city governments exist, however, but to educate the pupils in the forms of civic government so that in after years they will know not only how to vote intelligently, but why they vote. It teaches the school child simple lessons in political economy and civics, bringing them to a realization of what government is and why it should be, and the lesson is being taught so well that even the court sentences are carried out by the sentenced ones quite cheerfully, the one in duress knowing that the punishment is a part of the government of which he or she is a part.

In connection with the government are all the necessary departments, including a garbage department, the officers of which look after the conditions of the school grounds, keeping them neat and clean. Each of the schools under city government have a special room for the meetings of their board of supervisors, and here will be found on file the regular reports of the department heads, the sheriff, judge, garbage superintendent and others. Everything is run in a business way and order reigns.

In addition to the four Honolulu schools mentioned, in which the school city government flourishes, the system has been inaugurated in the Hamakua-poko school, at Hanapepe, at Waimea and at Pepeekeo.

THE WEEK'S EVENTS AT LAHAINA, MAUI

LAHAINA, Sept. 24.—Sister Helene, manager of the hospital at Wailuku, was suddenly called on Saturday to proceed to the Settlement on Molokai on account of the Sister Superior being very ill. Half an hour after receiving the request, the good Sister was in a hack and reached Lahaina fifteen minutes before the Mikabala sailed for Molokai.

J. P. Cook and Carl Smith, Land Commissioners, took the little boat on Saturday afternoon for Honolulu. Charles Hartwell was over to Lahaina on Saturday from Molokai where he has a large ranch.

P. H. Judd and Mr. Nakuna came from Honolulu on Friday evening and proceeded to Molokai to spend four days in a Sunday school convention.

Fred Church and Mrs. Church are staying a few days in Lahaina.

The teachers of Lahaina district will hold monthly meetings this year at the Lahaina school.

School Inspector Wells was in Lahaina on Wednesday evening on his way to inspect the Molokai school.

NEIL AND JACKSON STOPPED FOR FAKE

GOLDFIELD, Nev., Sept. 8.—The contest between Al Neil and Young Peter Jackson, scheduled to go twenty rounds, was stopped in the seventh round last night by the Sheriff on the ground that the men were faking. Under-Sheriff Knight was cheered by the crowd when it was announced from the ring that the contest was off color and must stop. Referee Willard Bean then declared it no contest and all bets off.

In the preliminary Ralph Conway (colored) knocked out Gus Koster in the second round.

LICENSE REFUSED.

The Board of License Commissioners held a meeting yesterday afternoon to consider the application of T. Ichida for a wholesale liquor license at Waimala on the Oahu railway. The Board refused to grant the license.

RAT CAMPAIGN IS DOING WELL

The war against the rat is being manfully waged by the Board of Health and the United States quarantine service, trap and gun being kept busy. For the week ending September 19 the number of rats taken by the authorities amounted to 825, of which number 587 stuck their feet into traps and 238 fell before the unerring aim of the shotgun specialists.

This is a satisfactory showing, but much more satisfactory is the fact that 680 of these dead rats were bacteriologically examined and not one found to be infected with bubonic germs.

Very satisfactory, too, is the fact that each rat, properly dead and tagged for identification purposes, cost, delivered at the quarantine laboratory, only twelve and a quarter cents. These are the official figures supplied the Board of Health by Dr. Currie, who is in command of the rat exterminators, and when compared to what the market price of registered rats has been elsewhere it can be seen what bargains these are. In Seattle, for instance, when the rat war was on, it cost the United States government a dollar and a half per rat, regular Klondike prices.

A noticeable thing about the Honolulu rats is that they are in nowise bigoted, the tree rat sometimes preferring the ground and the ground rat sometimes visiting his arboreal brethren. The rat of the Rattus family, for instance, did considerable amount of tree climbing last week, no fewer than forty-one having been bird-shotted out of their leafy retreats, while the number who fell by the wayside in the ground traps set was 192. The Mus Alexandrinus, whose home is among the bird perches, ran into fifty-seven ground traps through being where he had no business to be, while 147 stray-at-homes fell victims to the sharpshooters. The Norway rat, who never climbs a tree, contributed thirty-seven of their number to the trappers, and 301 Mus musculus did the same.

In addition to the shotgun brigade out in force and the fifteen hundred odd traps that are being set daily in the foot of the unwary rat, the Federal authorities are busy with their caters, the trained ratters from which the will before very long let loose against the whole mouse population. In the hatched on Quarantine Island are now gathered together the fiercest of the feline population of the city, some Toms who weigh in at eight pounds, fighting weight, and a number of Tommies whose teeth and claws have "harvested" them as the fittest of a whole generation.

Already the fighting progeny of these fighting sires have begun to show their eyes open, and the demand for a weaning diet for the kittens, is growing. Before long the kittens will be given rats to eat, dead ones to start on, and finally, when they are not wobbly on their legs, live ones. It is the idea of those responsible for the catery that if this first generation brought up on fresh rat as a steady diet and if the population of the catery is forced to run down and catch the introduced live rats or go hungry that their children in turn will be born ratters, with a taste for blood and a knowledge through heredity of the ways of rats that will bode no good to the various breeds of musses that infest the city, and during the times of plague furnish a rapid transit system for the bubonic flea.

HOLMES ANNOYS PROMOTIONISTS

The article from the pen of J. Burton Holmes appearing in the October number of the Ladies' Home Journal, in which he relates a very fishy incident concerning his meeting in Honolulu of a leper, who was supposed to be making leis for tourists, has aroused the ire of the Promotion Committee and the matter was taken up and discussed at the meeting of that body yesterday. In the article referred to the inference is given that any tourist might drop off any steamer here and meet a leper at any old time. Those who live here know how absurd this is, how one might search in vain for even one suspected of having the disease, but to the hundreds of thousands of readers of the Ladies' Home Journal the story of Holmes will be the truth as seen here by a well-known traveler and writer. "This article will do us more harm in our effort to get tourists to visit Hawaii than all the work we can do for a year can wipe out," said Chairman W. E. Brown, who brought the matter to the attention of the committee, a sentiment that the other members present, R. H. Trent and W. A. Bowen, agreed in but knew not just what to do to counteract the harm done. It was pretty generally agreed that Holmes was badly mistaken in the incident quoted, to say the least.

It was finally decided not to write any contradiction to the Journal for fear of antagonizing that publication and having the mischief aggravated but the secretary was instructed to write to Holmes, pointing out the harm he had done and ask him to be more careful in the future.

The poster design selected for the Floral parade advertising, which shows George Washington driving a decorated automobile, with Martha Washington and Kamehameha as passengers, was gone over and more suggestions made concerning it. The matter of finally accepting the design was left to the chairman.

WHAT EVERYBODY SAYS MUST BE TRUE.

Everybody who has used it says Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy never fails to give relief from pains in the stomach or diarrhoea, which is positive proof of its reliability. For sale by Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., agents for the Hawaiian Islands.